ISLANDS OF ARRAN.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 24 February 1854;—*for*,

A COPY "of all CORRESPONDENCE which has taken place with the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, relative to the Establishment of regular POSTAL COMMUNICATION with the Islands of *Arran*, on the West Coast of *Ireland*."

General Post Office, 23 March 1854.

J. TILLEY, Assistant Secretary.

COPY of all CORRESPONDENCE which has taken place with the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, relative to the Establishment of a regular POSTAL COMMUNICATION with the Isles of *Arran*, on the West Coast of *Ireland*.

Captain *Bellew*, M.P., to Lord *Canning*.

MR. BELLEW presents his compliments to Lord Canning, and begs to forward, for his Lordship's favourable consideration, a memorial from the inhabitants of the Islands of Arran, praying for the establishment of postal communication between these islands and the mainland. Mr. Bellew begs most strongly to respectfully recommend the enclosed memorial to Lord Canning's serious and favourable consideration.

Charleville, Enniskerry,
9 September.

Enclosure in foregoing.

To the Right Honourable Viscount *Canning*, Her Majesty's Postmaster-General, &c. &c.

The MEMORIAL of the Inhabitants of the Islands of *Arran*, County of *Galway*,

Humbly showeth,

THAT the Islands of Arran, constituting a barony of the county of Galway, containing a population of over 3,000 inhabitants, among whom are a magistrate, three clergymen, a lighthouse, coastguard and constabulary stations, have been hitherto without postal communication.

That the absence of such communication has caused great inconvenience to your memorialists, not unfrequently to the extent of serious pecuniary losses, owing to the fact of letters being conveyed to the islands by private and irresponsible hands.

That the establishment of a communication twice a week between the islands and the post-office at Tully, on the Galway coast, would to a great extent overcome the inconvenience to which your memorialists are now subjected, and prevent such pecuniary losses as have been so frequently sustained.

That such a communication could be effected at an expense of about 35 *l.* per annum.

Your memorialists, therefore, humbly pray that your Lordship may be pleased to take these facts into your favourable consideration, with a view to the establishment of a post-office at Kilionayne, in the North Island of Arran; and memorialists shall ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

Patrick Harley, P.P., Chairman.

Patrick O'Flaherty, J.P., Secretary.

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REPORT from the Secretary of the Post Office in *Dublin* to Colonel *Maberly*.

For Colonel *Maberly*.

I BEG to return the memorial respecting postal accommodation to the Islands of Arran, and to submit a report from Mr. Smith, showing that the accommodation sought for would cost 38*l.* a year, while the estimated revenue is only 9*l.* 15*s.* per annum. A communication *once* weekly would cost 26*l.* a year, which, with salary to a sub-postmaster, 3*l.*, would exceed the revenue by 19*l.* 5*s.*; and, however desirable it might be to extend the benefit of postal accommodation to the Arran Islands, I fear I should not be justified in recommending a measure fraught with such expense to the department.

G. P. O., Dublin, (signed) *G. C. Cornwall.*
22 September 1853.

Enclosure in foregoing.

Sir, Dublin, 19 September 1853.

I WAS not aware of the existence of the enclosed memorial; but I have very recently made inquiry as to the practicability of extending post-office accommodation to the Isles of Arran, county of Galway.

I submit a two weeks' account of the correspondence, showing the number of letters to be only 45 weekly; estimated annual revenue, 9*l.* 15*s.*

The expense of a weekly service by boat would be 26*l.* a year, and of one twice weekly, 35*l.*, in either case without including the salary of a sub-postmaster, much exceeding the revenue.

I beg to enclose a detailed return. Letters are now sent by boat belonging to Mr. Flaherty, and, weather permitting, twice or thrice weekly.

(signed) *R. R. Smith.*

Enclosure, No. 1, in foregoing.

GALWAY.

AN ACCOUNT of the number of LETTERS and NEWSPAPERS sent from this Office to *Arran*, for Two Weeks, from the 23d August 1853.

Date.	—	Letters.	Newspapers.
24 Aug. 1853	Sent out.	nil.	nil
25 „ „	- „ -	„	„
26 „ „	- „ -	„	„
27 „ „	- „ -	„	„
28 „ „	- „ -	„	„
29 „ „	- „ -	15	17
30 „ „	- „ -	8	4
31 „ „	- „ -	nil.	nil.
1 Sept. „	- „ -	9	6
2 „ „	- „ -	5	4
3 „ „	- „ -	23	15
4 „ „	- „ -	7	5
5 „ „	- „ -	5	7
6 „ „	- „ -	17	10
	TOTAL - - -	89	68

The despatch of letters for the Islands of Arran depending altogether upon the state of the weather, the direction in which the wind blew, and opportunity which offered for their transmission, no letters were sent to Arran from the 24th to the 28th August, nor on the 31st of said month.

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Enclosure, No. 2.

DETAILED RETURN with respect to the RURAL POST applied for to be established from the Post Town *Galway* to *Arran* Island.

Names of Places to be included in the Post.	Number of Letters for each Place.	Distance from Place to Place Total Distance from Post Town.	Hours of Arrival.	Hours of Departure	Mode of Conveyance and Delivery.	Expenses of the Post in Detail.	Annual Revenue, estimated at 1 *d.* per Letter.
						£.	£. s. d.
Isles of Arran -	2)89 in two weeks. 45 weekly.	About eight miles from the Coast of Galway, near Inverin.	Depending on weather.		Sailing boat -	Sub-Postmaster - 3 Conveyance by boat twice weekly 35 38 A service once weekly; 10*s.* or 26*l* a year.	9 15 -

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J. P. Godby, Esq , to Captain *Bellew*, M.P.

Sir, General Post-office, 30 September 1853.

HAVING submitted to the Postmaster-General your letter of the 9th instant, transmitting a memorial from certain inhabitants of Arran, in the Bay of Galway, praying for the establishment of postal communication with the mainland, I am directed by his Lordship to acquaint you, that the amount of correspondence to be benefited by such arrangement is too insignificant to justify a favourable consideration of the prayer of the memorialists.

(signed) *J. P. Godby*,
pro Secretary.

Captain Bellew, M.P., &c.,
Charleville, Enniskerry.

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ISLANDS OF ARRAN.

COPY of the CORRESPONDENCE relative to the Establishment of a POSTAL COMMUNICATION with the Islands of *Arran*, on the West Coast of *Ireland*.

(*Mr Bellew*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
28 March 1854.

135.

Under 1 *oz.*

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